

Jesus Through the Eyes of John

Steve Williams and Earl Johnson

Understanding the writer of this book!

- Is he Jewish or Roman ... what makes you think that?
- What do we KNOW?

Here is how you can get the most out of the class:

Look at the verses ahead of class and formulate the vision that you think John is painting for you ... as seen through your eyes when you look at the textual painting John has left for you.

Craft what you see, that picture, ... into a message that represents what John was trying to communicate ... this will be your view of the author's work.

Frankly, I have read and re-read many passages ... and my vision is every changing ... because I learn things I did not know which changes the meaning of the text, customs, habits, unique cultural practices Like a kaleidoscope change the scene of the text right before my eyes.

Come EARLY and Grab us in the Parking Lot after and let's talk!

Class will start RIGHT on time, but for everyone who comes early we will be involved in interactive discussion of John that may or may not be in our guided study. **Before** class and **After** main assembly, we will discuss whatever you want from the book of John.

Nature of the Class

Come prepared to share your observations. It is not a class requirement that you must share your thoughts or speak up in class.

However, we believe that we learn best by sharing, shaping and offering counter points and opposing points of view. We also recognize that some like to think out loud and share while they are thinking and others like to internalize and reason it all out in their heads before they even voice the first word. Learn to listen and make sure that we are comprehending what they are trying to say.

NOTE: There is only **ONE** accurate meaning to the text: ***Whatever the author meant to convey!*** But since the author is not here for us to ask questions, we must use our linguistic, and hermeneutics skills to the best of our ability to get out of his literary work ... what he intended to communicate!!! So, determining the author's intention is what we all are attempting to achieve. Always, be prepared to look at the literature from a slightly different point of view – to see if we have missed some nuance that previously escaped our notice.

This will not be a line by line and textual review class. (Although some of that may occur. Mesmerizing words, fascinating phrases, unexpected questions may arise.)

This is highlighting and getting to know the Jesus that a Jew named John saw with his own eyes.

"Jesus, let us, come to know you!"

Practical Application

The most important part is the practical application of what John saw ... what did Jesus inspire us to do? What do we need to practice in order to be a most excellent imitation of HIM?

Ground rules:

Think of biblical text as a work of art. The art is complex, and the intention of the painter may be clear or it may be less clear. There may be multiple focal points, instead of just one. There is a lot going on in the scene and a whole big picture is being painted so we can see something or somethings.

It is a phenomenon that 4 people at the scene of an accident will report what they saw differently. Part of it is vantage point, part of it is bias, part of it is amount of attention to the unfolding scene. NONE of those points of view are a complete record

We do expect people to see different things in the woman at the well. We may even disagree on the focal point or points. However, we do **not** want to miss a few focal points because all we can see is only one or two things.

Class Schedule (Proposed)

March 6th - John 1:1-51

March 13th - John 2-3

March 20th - John 4

March 27th - John 5-6

April 3rd - John 7-8

April 10th - John 9-10

April 17th - John 11-12

April 24th - John 13

May 1st - John 14-16

May 8th - John 17-18:11

May 15th - John 18-19

May 22nd - John 20-21

May 29th - John 1:1-51

Week One Pre Class

1. Divide the Book of John into 2 Sections!
 - Now divide The First Section into 3 Parts
 - Now divide the Second Section into 4 sections
2. What's MISSING from this gospel!
 -
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3. Whose interactions with Jesus are Recorded!